

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 11 and 14-16 stand objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanazawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,559,814) (hereinafter "Kanazawa '814'") in view of Kanazawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,072) (hereinafter "Kanazawa '072'").

Claims 2-9 and 13-18 are allowed.

Claim 12 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 12 and 14-18 to improve the form of the claims and to differently describe embodiments of the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 11-18 remain pending for consideration.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 11 and 14-16 stand objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 12 and 14-16 to improve the form of the claims in response to the Examiner's comments at page 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 11 and 14-16 is respectfully requested. Applicant notes that claims 17-18 has similar language with regard to the language objected to in claims 14-16. Accordingly, claims 17-18 were amended in that regard as well.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanazawa '814 in view of Kanazawa '072. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application's specification. To the extent that these rejections might be deemed to apply to the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that the driving method of embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application include a feature in which at least one item selected from the group consisting of magnitude, time width and interval of sustaining alternating pulses is changed in relation to changes in polarity of such sustaining alternating pulses. Applicant refers to a drawing shown in the attached Exhibit A, which illustrates changes in time widths of the sustaining alternating pulses, in the case of the embodiment shown in Fig. 14, in relation to changes in polarity of the sustaining alternating pulses.

The above-discussed arrangement of changing any of the magnitude, time width and interval of the sustaining alternating pulses across the neighboring electrodes in relation to the changes in polarity of the sustaining alternating pulses results in particular advantages. For example, the neighboring emission spots such as those shown by hatching in Figs. 5A, 5B, and 8A, 8B are respectively changed. As a result, the luminous intensities of the emission spots can be controlled to thereby avoid undesired non-uniformity in the brightness of the resultant image.

With respect to the "sustaining alternating pulses" term, Applicant respectfully submits that it is to be understood that such sustaining alternating pulses appear across neighboring electrodes because of the application of sustaining pulses on the electrodes to result in a

sustaining effect therebetween. Applicant respectfully submits that neighboring sustaining alternating pulses alternate in polarity, in the manner indicated in the attached Exhibit A.

On the other hand, Applicant respectfully submits that in Kanazawa '072's disclosed driving method, neither the magnitude, time width nor interval of sustaining alternating pulses is changed in relation to changes in polarity of the sustaining alternating pulses in the manner recited in the instant application's newly-amended independent claims 1 and 11. For example, in Fig. 12 of Kanazawa '072, neither the magnitude, time width nor interval of sustaining alternating pulses is changed during the first sustaining period. In addition, the applied reference to Kanazawa '814 does not cure the deficiencies of Kanazawa '072 in these regards.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application described in newly-amended independent claims 1 and 11 are particularly different from the disclosures of the applied Kanazawa '072 and Kanazawa '814 references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Kanazawa '072 nor Kanazawa '814, whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 11, as amended. MPEP § 2143.03 instructs that "[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 409 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." Furthermore, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that dependent claim 12 includes allowable subject matter. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that dependent claim 12 is also allowable at least because of its dependence from claim 11, and the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 12 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 2-9 and 13-18 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the Amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Dated: September 7, 2005

By:



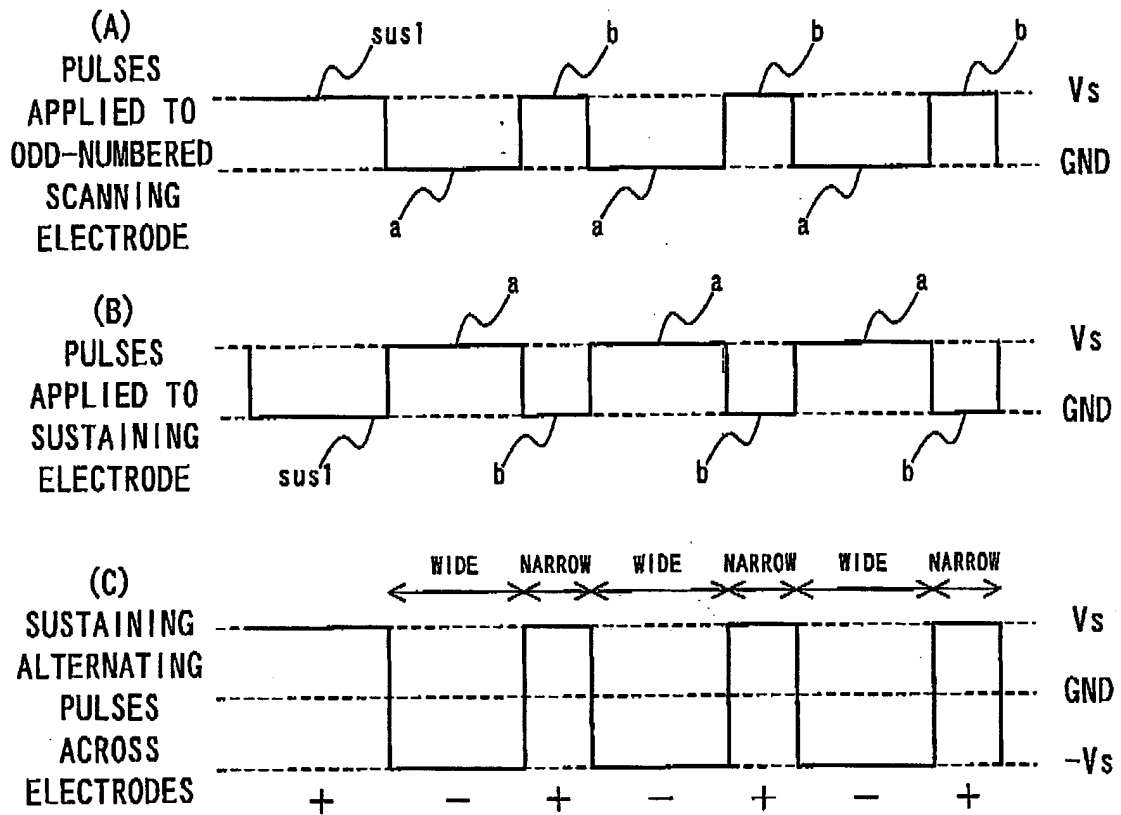
Paul A. Fournier

Reg. No. 41,023

Customer No. 55694
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-1209
Tel.: (202) 842-8800
Fax: (202) 842-8465



EXHIBIT A



Note; "+" and "-" represent polarities of sustaining alternating pulses